

## **REMARKS**

### ***Status of the Claims***

Claims 4, 5, 13-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6-12 are cancelled.

### ***Summary of the Office Action and Response***

In the Office Action, claims 13-20 were allowed. Claims 1-3 and 6-12 were rejected. Claims 4 and 5 were objected to. Applicant has herein amended claims 4 and 5 to cure the objection, and canceled claims 1-3, 6-12 without prejudice, thereby placing all pending claims in condition for allowance.

### ***Claims Rejections - 35 USC §102(e) and §103***

The Office rejected claims 1-3 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 103 as being anticipated by or unpatentable over Souissi et al. (US Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0083432), which was cited by the Examiner. Applicant has herein canceled these claims without prejudice, thereby making these rejections moot.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Office has allowed claims 13-20, for which the Applicant is thankful.

The Office objected to claims 4 and 5 as dependent on rejected claim 1 but otherwise allowable. Applicant has herein amended each of claims 4 and 5 to incorporate the limitations of claim 1, thereby curing these objections.

***Amendments Without Prejudice***

Applicant states expressly that it is without prejudice or acquiescence to the rejections and conclusions by the Office, that the Applicant has herein canceled or amended claims to incorporate subject matter deemed allowable by the Office, thereby traversing the rejections. Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of non allowed claims and requests reconsideration and allowance of all presented claims.

***Summary***

Applicant believes the above amendments and remarks to be fully responsive to the Office Action, thereby placing this application in condition for allowance. No new matter is added. Applicant requests speedy reconsideration, and further requests that Examiner contact its attorney by telephone, facsimile, or email for quickest resolution, if there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

**/Vernon C. Maine, Reg. No. 37,389/**

Cust. No. 24222  
Vern Maine & Associates  
PO Box 3445  
Nashua, NH 03061-3445  
Tel. No. (603) 886-6100  
Fax. No. (603) 886-4796  
[Patents@maineandasmus.com](mailto:Patents@maineandasmus.com)

Vernon C. Maine, Reg. No. 37,389  
Andrew P. Cernota, Reg. No. 52,711  
David A. Rardin, Reg. No. 52,153  
Attorneys/Agents for Applicant